

Belmont Cultural Council

November 28, 2006 Meeting Minutes

Members attending: Viva Fisher, Rebecca Richards, Juliet Jenkins, Sarah Freiberg-Ellison, Patty Mihelich

Absent: Susan Smart

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm.

Viva moved to approve the minutes of November 2, 2006. Sarah seconded and all approved. Juliet will post them on the town website.

The first grants discussed were those needing additional clarification on open applications. Rebecca began with her deliberations with Adrienne Der Marderosian's Collage Exhibition, #16. Rebecca had a follow-up conversation on the series of collages to be exhibited in the library Flett Room, a new dedicated space for art. There was concern about the reasons needed for making the prints of the collages versus displaying the original collages. Adrienne had explained that some of the materials used to make the collages were very old and susceptible to damage. Rebecca reiterated reasons to support the project based on her conversation. Adrienne is also the only individual visual artist in this funding cycle.

The next grant reviewed was the Friends of Benton Library, "Music for Benton," #11. Rebecca had a conversation with the applicant. . Budgetary details, such as main performer, accompanist, admission fee, and performance venue were reviewed. There was some discussion by Cultural Council members of earlier funding situations where a fledgling organization may not have had all of the material and program in order on their first go-around in a funding cycle. It is hoped that the ambitious program will be even more clarified in the future.

The discussion moved on to details of how to fund all the grant applications that are still open and stay within our budget. Strong support again went to new applicants and local partners. Grants that were well defined were also given greater consideration. In order to make the calculations easier, the Council reduced its 5% administration from \$220.50 to \$220. That left \$4190 to be allocated to the open applications. #3 Witt Concert was allocated \$1,000, the complete amount as the program can only run fully funded. #7 Burbank School "Benjamin Franklin Visits Belmont" was allocated \$700, as the schools are a priority for reaching a wide audience with our limited means. #7 Powers Music School "Musical Story Hour" was allocated \$375, fully funded to nurture a new applicant with a new but well-defined program. #11 Friends of the Library "Music for Benton" was allocated \$100 to encourage growth and direction of this new program. #12 Belmont Council on Aging was allocated \$400 to allow for half of the initial painting workshop series to occur. #13 Habitat Education Center for and Wildlife Sanctuary's "Chenex Nature Connection" was allocated \$400, to nearly fully fund an important contribution to the community by a new applicant to the Cultural Council. #15 Belmont Against Racism "Belmont Reads" was allocated \$300 for some of the books for a large community program. #16 Adrienne Der Marderosian's "Collage Exhibition" was allocated \$330 towards the exhibition needs as determined by the budget in the grant. #17 Ardell "Chicken Soup Cabaret Musical Performance" was fully allocated at \$185 as the only way to get the program was to fully fund it. Finally #18 the Wellington school "The Science Works - Balls and Ramps" was partially funded at \$400 in an effort to bring the sciences to the schools. The total proposed allocations add up to \$4190, our allocation for this year.

There was a motion from Patty to accept the proposed allocations listed above and it was seconded by Juliet. All voted in favor. We were about to adjourn when discussion turned to our next meeting and our efforts to involve the public in our programs. An idea to initiate a reception honoring this year's recipients and including presentations and/or performances from recipients in the past 5 years was considered and accepted by the Council members. It was decided that the

program should take place at the Belmont Gallery on an evening, with the Council covering the custodial fee and the cost of invitations. The date of the program will probably in early March, to be set at the next meeting. Council members will meet in January to divvy out responsibilities for contacting current and past recipients, as well as invited local officials to the event.

Finally, Patty brought up a desire for the Council to be included in the upcoming 150th anniversary of the town in 2009. It was suggested that our call for grant applicants could announce that a special focus of the year would be Belmont from a historical perspective and we could use that as a criterion when we review the FY 2008 and 2009 round of applicants. The next meeting date was set for Tues, 7:30 January 16th.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted by Juliet Jenkins